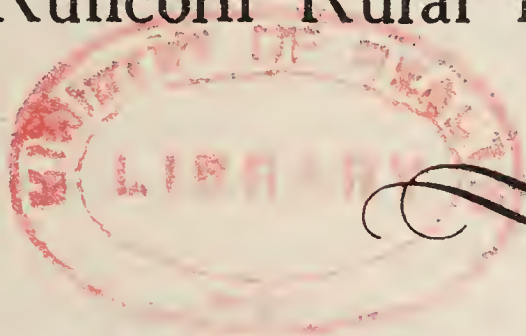


Runcorn Rural District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December,

1944.



FRODSHAM,

OSMOND C. KEMP, PRINTER,

1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.,  
CASTLE PARK,  
FRODSHAM.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Runcorn Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health have now given authority for Annual Reports to show more detail.

My remarks in my 1942 Report again refer, which in brief are as follows :

“ Speaking generally, the health of the Community has been satisfactory, especially considering war conditions, the latter have not decreased the efforts of all concerned in Civil Defence duties, and the essential work required in connection with Infectious Disease, Food, Milk, Water, Housing and Health propaganda.

It is noted with the greatest satisfaction that the Government propose to deal by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health, these will apply, for example, to Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for Medical Treatment and Social Security.

The various excellent Voluntary Societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament.

We must congratulate the National Council for Social Services, with their many attached Societies, etc., for their excellent voluntary work, especially the Cheshire Community Council ; in addition the Council for Encouragement of Music and Art (C.E.M.A.) has, and in the future will have, an important bearing in bringing Music and Art to the people.”

The year 1944 has been a strenuous year, in that, with

"First Aid" preventive measures only allowed, we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties ; the sincere thanks to all concerned, my Council, Officials, Doctors and all Voluntary Bodies, is extended to them by me, for only by team work and their co-operation could a satisfactory state of affairs be sustained ; the various Voluntary Bodies, including the Central Council for Health Education, C.E.M.A., W.E.A., B.R.C. and St. John's Societies must be specially mentioned.

As the War draws to a close, may we wish from our hearts that the wonderful effort made, for the common good, by all concerned will be extended into the peace time period and beyond.

In the "Standing Down" of the Civil Defence, Ambulance and Casualty Services, the sincere thanks to all—whole time and part-time members is extended ; their loyal, efficient service given with such good spirit has been an example we well can carry into future years and should not be lost.

The excellent support given for Civil Defence by the Chief Constable and all his Staff, the County Medical Officer of Health and his Staff, has been more than appreciated, without their aid we could not have been ready for all emergencies especially in the organising of Mutual Aid, a Scheme again which could be well followed generally in the future.

The important subjects, for example : Housing, Diphtheria Immunisation, Personal Hygiene and in the Home, etc., are dealt with under their respective headings.

Dutton Isolation Hospital is still being used as the combined Hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts.

The co-operation and help of all concerned has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,**

Medical Officer of Health.



## **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.**

My Council's Free Scheme is still available so that Parents and Guardians can have their Children properly immunised against the deadly disease Diphtheria.

All Children, one to fifteen years of age, preferably just before **One Year of Age**, should be properly Immunised against Diphtheria; in addition a 'Booster Dose' is required in five years time. This can be obtained Free of Cost through the Parents' or Guardians' own Doctor; failing this, at Special Clinics at Schools or Welfare Centres, which will be organised as required.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to Hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result.

The following figures speak for themselves :

Number of Children Immunised in 1939—6·8%

Number of Children Immunised in 1944—99·2%

Number of Cases of Diphtheria in 1939—22

Number of Cases of Diphtheria in 1944—10

## **VITAL STATISTICS.**

Birth Rate—18·24 per 1,000 against 15·7 for 1943.

Death Rate—10·55 per 1,000 against 11·5 for 1943.

Infantile Mortality Rate—34·54 per 1,000 against 46·5 for 1943.

Still Births—18·64 per 1,000 against 25·3 for 1943.

The highest mortality figures given are due to the following causes :

### **HEART DISEASE AND CANCER.**

The number of Scarlet Fever cases during the year total 94.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

It is hoped when conditions allow, for this, that consideration will be given to :

- (1)—More Nurses for nursing children at home (via the Cheshire County Council Welfare Scheme).
- (2)—Accepting into Hospital certain severe cases of, for example, Whooping Cough, Measles and Enteritis in young Children, especially where Housing conditions are bad : this would probably help to reduce our Infantile Mortality Rate ; the 20 deaths in Infants under One year of age were due to the following :

Premature Birth	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Broncho Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Marasmus.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Infantile Debility	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Gastric Enteritis	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Spina Bifida	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

## HOUSING.

Owing to War conditions Housing conditions are and will continue to cause some concern. My Council hope as soon as possible with Government aid and private enterprise to arrange for building to relieve overcrowding, those living in unfit houses and other houses required for any increase in the population or other purposes. A short and long term policy will be required, both fitting into a proper Planning Scheme.

## CANAL BOATS.

The Annual Report of the Canal Boat Inspector was good and has already been forwarded to the Ministry. Special reference was made to Welfare, Supply of Milk etc., to occupants of Canal Boats.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1944.**

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Houses (General) .....	210	120	26
Schools .....	30	.....	.....
Camping Grounds .....	22	.....	.....
Water Supplies—Samples .....	95	10	.....
Water Supplies—other visits .....	49	.....	.....
Defective Roofs and Gutters .....	57	62	3
Ashplaces and Earth Closets .....	58	12	.....
Closets Conversions .....	.....	.....	.....
Drains, Sanitary Fittings .....	117	93	5
Cesspools .....	8	6	.....
Ditches, Brooks .....	95	8	.....
Sewer Connections .....	8	2	.....
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	450	90	.....
Salvage Work .....	32	.....	.....
Streets, Yards, Passages .....	107	4	.....
Foul Accumulations .....	4	.....	.....
Vermin .....	86	36	.....
Piggeries .....	34	1	.....
Dairy Farms .....	342	.....	.....
Milk Retailers .....	90	.....	.....
Milk Samples .....	26	5	.....
Milk Inquiries .....	26	11	.....
Shops and Food Stores .....	206	.....	.....
Meat and Foods .....	40	.....	.....
Canal Boats .....	23	.....	.....
Zymotic Inquiries .....	151	.....	.....
Zymotic visits to Schools and Contacts .....	91	.....	.....
Mortuaries .....	53	.....	.....
Factories and Workshops .....	48	2	.....
Farm Shanties .....	53	8	.....
Miscellaneous .....	144	41	.....
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2755</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>34</b>



## **WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERS.**

There have been no new water mains or sewers laid during the year 1944, these await the new Government Act.

## **FOOD AND DRUG ADULTERATION ACT.**

Samples taken under the Food and Drug Adulteration Act totalled 51, including 19 samples of Milk, 5 of which were found to be not up to standard.

## **SCABIES.**

The latest scheme was put into operation during July, 1943, in accordance with Ministry of Health Scabies Order, is still in operation as under :—

Patients from the parishes of Alvanley, Aston, Dutton, Frodsham. Halton, Helsby, Kingsley, Manley, Norley, Norton, Sutton, attend the Cleansing Centre, Balfour Road, Runcorn.

Patients from the parishes of Antrobus, Appleton, Great Budworth, Daresbury, Grappenhall, Hatton, Moore, Preston Brook, Stockton Heath, Stretton, Walton, Whitley, attend the Cleansing Centre, Warrington Borough.

During the year the incidence of Scabies has not been of a severe character.

## **INFESTATION.**

Infestations of Children with head lice, which can not only convey infections, but through irritation and sometimes septic conditions, lower the standard of health of children affected, is being dealt with as efficiently as possible. The use of Lethane

Oil (with hot Lysol solution and Derbac comb) is strongly recommended as this has been found to be efficacious in the eradication of head lice. Derbac Soap with the Derbac Comb has also been used.

## **HEALTH PROPAGANDA.**

Immunisation, Skin Diseases, Dietetics and Cooking, also Venereal Disease have all received special attention ; leaflets, etc., have been circulated to all Voluntary Societies, Youth Organizations, etc. The Central Council of Health Education have been of great assistance in this connection (lectures, films, etc.)

